

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

April 23, 2019

EOC Update: Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is constantly working to improve emergency preparedness processes and plans to respond to future emergencies. RDOS staff have been taking part in Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) workshops and training sessions, focusing on emergency management based on the Incident Command System (ICS).

The RDOS has leased space for a new regional EOC. The facility provides a central location for the coordination of support and resources to first responders dealing with emergency incidents in the region. A mobile EOC trailer is also being established to provide on-site support throughout the region.

Flooding

Spring freshet typically occurs in May and it is important for property owners to prepare now by understanding the risks in advance. In British Columbia, property owners are responsible for taking the necessary steps on their property to protect their home and property from flooding, while government emergency programs focus on broader flood response measures. Visit the RDOS EOC website for information updates and to check the status of emergencies in the region: <https://emergency.rdos.bc.ca/>

Emergency Preparedness Week – May 5-11, 2019

Emergency Preparedness Week (EP Week) takes place each year during the first full week of May. EP Week is an opportunity to encourage Canadians to take concrete actions to be better prepared to protect themselves and their families during emergencies.

Are You Prepared?

Coping with the stress of being out of your home during an Evacuation Order is easier if you have a plan.

- **Prepare** and practice your family and business emergency plan
- **Prepare** a 72-hour emergency kit for your family and vehicle
- **Sign up** for **CivicReady** and receive information notification messages and updates: <https://emergency.rdos.bc.ca/civic-ready/>
- Sand and sandbag locations are listed on the RDOS EOC website: <http://rdos.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=576e8ee9797f41a7878b4e5258c64d5e>
- If you require assistance with sandbagging, connect with your friends, family or volunteer organizations
- The RDOS does not deliver sand or sandbags to private residences or businesses
- Filled sandbags are not available from the RDOS

RDOS EOC Sandbagging Video: <https://youtu.be/thZwVWyXjMQ>

Landslides

Get to know your terrain and waterways. The best way to prepare is to be aware of changes that could signal a landslide. Learn how to recognize landslide danger signs. Visit **PreparedBC** online: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/know-the-risks/landslides>

Wildfires

FireSmart Community Assessment Reports for several communities are available on the RDOS EOC website: <https://emergency.rdos.bc.ca/resources/> These assessment reports provide suggestions to help reduce the risk of wildfire around private property including removing flammable material under decks, clearing away ladder fuels such as cedar hedges, and cleaning debris from gutters. Visit FireSmart BC online: <https://firesmartbc.ca/>

Resource Material

To learn more about **Emergency Preparedness**, please click the **resources** link on the RDOS EOC website: <https://emergency.rdos.bc.ca/> You also can find resource material including tips on making your own emergency kit by visiting the RDOS office (101 Martin Street, Penticton) and municipalities throughout the region.

Building Climate Resilience in the Okanagan – A Homeowners’ Resource Guide

The RDOS in partnership with the South Okanagan Real Estate Board (SOREB) has published a Homeowners’ Resource Guide to living in the Okanagan as we adapt to climate change. The guide covers ways to prepare your property to be more resilient in extreme weather events. You can download the guide here: http://www.rdosmaps.bc.ca/min_bylaws/PublicWorks/Building_Resilience_Guidebook/SOREBRDOS.pdf

Infrastructure Upgrades

Since early 2018 and continuing through the spring of 2019, the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MoTI) has completed several drainage infrastructure upgrades across, and adjacent to public roadways in the following areas:

Reed Creek - Fairview Rd, Old Golf Course Rd, Chokecherry St, Sumac St, Highway 97, Road 6

Tin Horn Creek - Highway 97, Road 9

Kearns Creek (Willowbrook) - Johnson Crescent, Carr Crescent (east & west,) Meyers Rd

Park Rill Creek - Willowbrook Rd resident access, Willowbrook Rd, Yellowbrick Rd, Jones Way, Goldtau Rd, Secrest Hill Rd (currently under construction)

Victoria Creek - Secrest Hill Rd

Flood and Wildfire Recovery Team

The RDOS EOC has established a flood and wildfire recovery team. The intent of establishing a recovery team is to continue working through the challenges faced by people impacted by the 2018 spring freshet, as well as the 2018 wildfires. If you require recovery assistance, please contact the RDOS EOC recovery team: 250-490-4225.

Remember to test, clean and replace batteries on your **Smoke Alarm** at least every six months.



For more information visit the RDOS EOC website <https://emergency.rdos.bc.ca>

Issued by Director of RDOS Emergency Operations Centre

RDOS EOC 250-490-4225